



## **Faculty Senate News**

December 5, 2006

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season! I wish each and every one of you happiness, health, and success throughout the new year! The last University Faculty Senate meeting for this calendar year will take place December 5, 2006, and will be held at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building.

On November 3 and 4 Penn State hosted the annual CIC Faculty Governance meeting. There were representatives from all CIC institutions. We were pleased to have President Spanier, Provost Erickson, and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Blannie Bowen participate in portions of a productive meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting included Standing on Shifting Ground: Changes in Scholarly Communication; CIC governance survey; Grievance Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines; Flexible Tenure Policies; Fixed-term Faculty; and others. Our Senate last hosted this meeting in October 2004. We look forward to visiting our governance colleagues at the University of Iowa next year.

At next week's meeting President Spanier will provide comments and stand for questions. If you have questions of keen interest for the President, be sure to contact one of your Senate representatives, so she or he can take this opportunity to have the University President address a specific issue.

Next Tuesday's Senate agenda includes four legislative actions:

A revision to the Constitution changing a reference to student representation from the Undergraduate Student Government Academic Assembly to the University Park Undergraduate Association. This report will be voted on at the January 30, 2007, Senate meeting.

Voting on a revision to the Constitution that was discussed at the October 24 Senate meeting. The proposed membership revision will eliminate confusion and allow for more consistency across voting units in determining the Senate electorate.

Voting on a revision to the Standing Rules updating the responsibilities of the Senate Committee on Outreach to better reflect the current scope of outreach activities across Penn State.

A revision to Senate Policy 67-00 (Athletic Competition) to provide consistency in reference to semesters in residence.

Two informational reports will be presented by the Senate Committee on Student Life concerning the new student government association and student services enhancements at Commonwealth campuses.

The Secretary of the Senate will report on Senate Officers' visits to seven campuses (Abington, Delaware County, DuBois, Great Valley, Harrisburg, McKeesport, and New Kensington) in Fall 2006.

Two national reports are posted on the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs Web site:

- National Academies *Beyond Bias and Barriers*  
[http://www.senate.psu.edu/about\\_senate/committees/fa/bias\\_barriers\\_summary.pdf](http://www.senate.psu.edu/about_senate/committees/fa/bias_barriers_summary.pdf)
- AAUP *Gender Equity* Reports  
<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/research/geneq2006>

I invite you to read and discuss them as appropriate.

Members of the University community are invited to attend this meeting. Any member of the University community not a member of the Senate may request the privilege of the floor on any item of business already before the Senate. Such a request must be made to the Chair, through the Executive Secretary of the Senate, at least four calendar days before the meeting at which the individual wishes to speak.

The complete agenda for the Senate meeting is posted on the Web at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/index.html> and the minutes (The Senate Record) will be posted approximately three weeks after the meeting. Senate meetings are also available through streaming video at <http://live.libraries.psu.edu>.

Finally, I do encourage all University members to be involved in governance issues by attending local unit meetings, by contacting the unit's Faculty Senate representatives, and by using the University Faculty Senate Web site at <http://www.senate.psu.edu>.

For information on submitting major, minor, option, or course proposals, the Guide to Curricular Procedures is available on the Web at [http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum\\_resources/guide/contents.html](http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/guide/contents.html). Senate Curriculum Reports are available at [http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum\\_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html](http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html).

Thank you.

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